

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Darrell Kasner, 48, of Arpin, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 3 months in federal prison, a \$1,000 fine, and two years of supervised release for highway project fraud. Kasner pleaded guilty to this charge on March 14, 2007.

Darrell Kasner owned and operated Kasner's Transport in Wood County, Wisconsin. Kasner's Transport owned two dump trucks providing transport services for hire by contractors in road building and other construction industries. On Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) and other federal-aid jobs, Kasner's was obligated to pay its drivers the higher of the federal or state prevailing wage. To demonstrate compliance with prevailing wage laws, subcontractors like Kasner must submit certified payroll records showing employee hours and wage rates. These payroll records are submitted to the prime contractor, who in turn submits them to WISDOT.

From August 2002 to September of 2003, Kasner was hired by Ames Construction to provide transport services on the Highway 10 project near Winchester,

Wisconsin. During this federally funded project, Kasner paid his drivers approximately \$14 an hour. The prevailing wage for this job was around \$30 an hour. To conceal his underpayment to drivers, Kasner caused the production of false certified payrolls.

These documents falsely showed Kasner employees working fewer hours and being paid the prevailing wage. One of Kasner's drivers covertly tape recorded Kasner admitting that he was not paying the prevailing wage. As a result of Kasner's underpayment, the loss to the drivers totaled approximately \$28,000.

The charges against Kasner were the result of an investigation conducted by United States Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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